

The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

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How to Join

- * Come to a club meeting;
- * or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)
- * or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

From the President

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

Where did the month of May go? It seems like only yesterday I was putting words to screen for last month's article, about the loan of an Apache Labs SDR radio to learn before Dayton. That's where the time went and I'll write more about that further in the issue.

For those who didn't attend last month's meeting its page one news that the Golden Corral meeting venue was well received by the attending members & guests. The food and service were good, the room was quiet for the presenter, and tables made for easy mingling. Guess we'll be going back there as long as they'll have us.

As you read this we're three weeks away from Field Day. Many of us will be participating at HARC's K4BFT effort at the US Space & Rocket Center and we're excited about the possibility of a new record club score. Even if you're not part of this Field Day effort, hope you can find the time & another location to be active.

We're also only 70 days away from the Huntsville Hamfest and all that it brings – our DX Banquet, forums, commercial vendors,

league officials, the flea market and more. In a few days we'll be posting news of our Banquet to sister organizations here in the Southeast and expect a sellout. Buy your ticket soon.

Maybe it was withdrawal but a few nights ago I hooked up the radio and fired up the rig that had been dark for too long. Heard a few regulars talking on the repeater about some 6m spots but didn't hear anything. Went down to 10m and found a W1 "Testing....". Called him anyways and ended up in an enjoyable 20 minute chat with a guy trying to improve the audio on his FT-5000. Found NV9L Val on 20m in a huge pile-up that 200w couldn't break but legal limit sure did. Then Iceland on a first call. Satisfied that the station still worked I retired for the night. Nothing rare but still rewarding.

Speaking of repeaters, Ron W4VM is planning to visit at the June meeting and brief us on his debugging efforts. He's put in a lot of work on this, including Memorial Day weekend, and while it's not yet perfect it's better than it's been in a long time. See you Tuesday.

73,
Mark N4BCD

June Program: Shack Layout & Ergonomics

Led by Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI

Kevin has been soliciting shack pictures, and hopefully everyone has contributed. Let's talk about why our shacks are laid out the way they are, share ideas and rationales, and maybe get some ideas for improvement. We're at the Golden Corral—get there around 6:00 for dinner, 7:00 for the meeting, and 7:30 for the program. If you have some late-breaking pictures, bring them with you on a memory stick.



The Traveling Salesman

By Mark Brown, N4BCD



Last month I mentioned the opportunity presented by Robby Sperr at Gigaparts to be a product spokesman at the Dayton Hamvention for the Apache Labs's line of radios his store recently started offering. To sweeten the deal, Robby provided a loaner radio & laptop to learn. It was a busy month with a steep learning curve and on Thursday morning I left town for Dayton with the top down and a jacket on.

About six hours later I pulled into the Hara Arena parking lot to deliver the radio to the Gigaparts employees already there and busy setting up the booth. Had some time to browse the flea market and found it like being involved with the Huntsville Hamfest move-in crew. Lots of wheeling & dealing going on before the official opening.

Found the Marriott Hotel with no trouble and provided my memorized Rewards number to the desk clerk who graciously added concierge floor access to my key card. For those unaware, the concierge floor provides an afternoon buffet with honor bar and a buffet breakfast. Breakfast is a free and quick affair instead of waiting somewhere else.

On Friday morning I was back at the Arena by 7:45 AM to ensure the radio & computer were working. We'd decided beforehand to play prerecorded spectrum due to the high noise level in the Arena. Bill KD8IGK was invited to join on this effort and had a parallel setup on the other side of the booth. The

spectrum playback worked flawlessly for CW, Phone, and Digital modes.

At 9 AM, the floodgates opened. For the entire day interested hams had all kinds of questions. And like society in general there were nice folks and there were jerks. Fortunately the former outnumbered the latter by a large margin. I was very thankful to have Bill there as there were a few times one of us knew the answer to a question the other didn't.

It was very early on that opening day we were visited by Rob Sherwood NCOB. I interrupted my discussion with a customer to greet him and then introduced him. The customer finally realized, saying "Oh, you're THAT Rob Sherwood". I passed Rob off to Robby and continued the sales pitch.

Friday passed in a blur of discussions about the features & performance of the radios and I left the Arena in time to make the Happy Hour before the DX Dinner that just happened to be at my hotel. This year's CQ Hall of Fame winner was Michael Wells G7VJR, author of ClubLog. An enjoyable program on last year's C82DX expedition followed and so after some good socializing and a forgettable meal it was time to turn in.

Saturday was a repeat of Friday with one notable exception. Tom W5KUB who does Hamfest webcasts showed up with his cart-mounted camera – and the Gigaparts guys scattered. Since I was the only one left in the booth I was "elected" to be the interviewee. It was relatively easy to speak on camera about the radio after practicing with so many other hams.

Traffic was notably winding down around 3 PM so it was easy to bow out in time to get to the Contest Dinner at the Crowne Plaza. Another night of good socializing, another forgettable meal – but I won a \$200 Yaesu gift certificate door prize that helped me forget

my aching knees.

Back at the Marriott I went to the concierge's lounge for a drink and snack and on the return elevator ride the doors opened to put me face to face with Dennis Motschenbacher – Yaesu's US Sales Manager with his wife. We said hello, I thanked him for the gift certificate bearing his signature, and wished him and his wife a pleasant evening.

Sunday's plan was to follow the lead of Heil Sound to decide when to begin tearing down. Booth traffic was still fairly constant but the volume of pedestrians was a small fraction of previous days. We began tearing down and packing around noon and I was on the road by 1:30 PM.

On the road to Pennsylvania. My mother was in the hospital and I was able to be there for her surgery. Spent a few days there visiting with her and the rest of the family before driving back to Alabama. It's a 700 mile trip so I drove as far as my exhausted self could travel. That put me in Bowling Green, KY for the night and by 9:30 AM the next day I was back at my real job.

All too soon an email arrived from Gigaparts asking for the ANAN-200D to be returned. It was fun while it lasted and a great experience.

I had originally thought about writing of my experiences with the radio. While I have both positive and negative comments about the radio, my opinion is just that – an opinion. I'm reminded of eHam product reviews where someone who owns a radio for a few weeks makes comments versus someone who uses a radio for half a year and then writes a review. I'd rather hear from a long-term owner.

73, Mark N4BCD

NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Mark Brown, N4BCD
Vice President	Warren Alford, KJ4RAQ
Secretary/	To be filled at Tuesday's
Treasurer	meeting.
At-large	Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI
directors	Tom Duncan, KG4CUY



May Meeting Minutes

Notes by Bill Bathgate, KD8IGK, Secretary/Treasurer

May 12, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Mark N4BCD welcomed 28 members & 7 guests to the May meeting held at the Golden Corral for the first time. Members gave the new meeting location was given a round of applause for both food & service.

Treasurer Bill Bathgate KD8IGK was on a business trip but Mark said Banquet tickets are available tonight.

Announcements:

The following club members have announced they are attending the Dayton Hamvention this year:

Steve AG4W, Bob K8KI, John N5DF, Bruce AC4G, Bill KD8IGK, Bob K4RHB, Tim AB4B, Craig NM4T, Steve AI4QR, Mark N4BCD. Steve AI4QR will be working in the FlexRadio booth and Mark and Bill will be working in the Apache Labs booth.

A few members have reported receiving either their W1AW WAS or Centennial Award certificates, but not both at the same time.

Mark was asked to announce that Bill KD8IGK will be running for HARC President and Bob K4RHB will be running for the Treasurer position in their upcoming election. Members were urged to attend the upcoming HARC election and exercise their vote.

Jim N4KH announced that the flea market tables for Huntsville Hamfest are going fast. Anyone considering a table was urged to reserve it quickly.

Rob N4WGY showed his home-brewed assembly of a Peaberry SDR integrated with a 25w amplifier.

Kelley W4VPZ showed a Bureau mailed QSL envelope containing her cards. The notable part is that the envelope was addressed by her father

W4VPZ SK who was last active in the 1980's.

Mark noted a humorous quote from Rob Sherwood NCOB, in a reply to a thread in a Yahoo Group: "The same thing applies to red Ethernet cables vs. blue Ethernet cables. One color runs faster than the other, but I don't remember which one is better!"

Rob KB5EZ mentioned the successful activation of a special event station hosted by the Marshall Space Flight Center club celebrating an anniversary which was not recorded in these minutes. Rob did mention that in the 6 day activation they worked 37 countries and 1032 QSO's.

In old business Mike KF4BOG asked if any work is being done on the W4QB club repeater. Bruce AC4G, Mike K4ADK, and others mentioned the presence of intermod. Mark stated he'd follow-up with Ron W4VM who's been researching the issue.

There was no other old or new business brought up so Mark introduced tonight's featured program: "As DX'ers we're all familiar with RTTY and how it's early roomful of equipment is now condensed either into the radio itself or operated via a soundcard in a computer. Tonight we have David Freese W1HKJ the father of FLDIGI and other Fast / Light programs. David was the recipient of last year's ARRL Technical Excellence Award presented at Dayton for this program. With David tonight is an avid fldigi - RTTY user, Edward Dout W3NR from Chickamauga, GA and Robert Stiles KK5VD a member of the NBEMS development team and resident of Madison."

From the Sign-In sheet members posted their notable DX QSO's.

Bruce AC4G: VK9NT

Tom N4KG: J49TSL (Crete)

AI W4ABW: 10 new IOTA's and 15 new band countries

Bob KC4TNC: 9Q0HQ, TO5BR

Rob KB5EZ: Rodriguez Is, Algeria, Tajikistan

Treasurer's Report

Current Bank Balance - May 2015 report

Beginning Balance	\$ 4,849.51
Deposits	\$ 00.00
Withdrawal	\$ 00.00
Ending Balance.....	\$ 4849.51

Notes provided by:

William Bathgate KD8IGK - NADXC
Treasurer and Secretary

Special Election

Bill Bathgate, KD8IGK is running for HARC President and his resignation as NADXC Secretary/Treasurer will mitigate the swirling controversy about conflict of interest within HARC. I wish Bill good luck and thank him for his excellent work while in office.

Per Article III, Section 2 of NADXC's Constitution: Vacancies, other than the Presidency, occurring between elections shall be filled by special ballot taken on or before the second regular meeting after the vacancy occurs.

Turnaround Times

From Mark Brown, N4BCD

Transmit / Receive turnaround time
(from QST product reviews)

ICOM 746PRO	T/R= 18ms R/T= 34ms
ICOM 756PRO III	T/R= 24ms R/T= 24ms
ICOM 7800	T/R= 15ms R/T= 10ms
ICOM VHF Transceivers	from 43 to 100ms
Flex SDR 1000	T/R= 170ms R/T= 150ms
Flex 5000	T/R= 29ms R/T= 25ms
Flex 6700	T/R= 184ms R/T= 138ms
Kenwood TS-990	T/R= 35ms R/T= 8ms
Yaesu FTdx5000	T/R= 66ms R/T= 37ms
Elecraft KX3	T/R= 44ms R/T= 30ms
TenTec Orion	T/R= 25ms R/T= 25ms
TenTec Orion II	T/R= 30ms R/T= 18ms
Apache Labs 100D	T/R= 95ms R/T= 195ms

(measured by a user, not published)

For Sale

TenTec Orion for sale or trade.

Contact Bob, k8ki@comcast.net.

DX Contests for June

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

GACW WWSA CW DX Contest, (CW), 80-10 meters

June 13, 1500Z to June 14, 1500Z

Exchange: RST, CQ zone

See page 86, June QST and www.wwsatest.org

Asia-Pacific Sprint, (SSB), 20-15 meters

June 13, 1100Z to June 13, 1300Z

Exchange: RS, Serial #

See page 86, June QST and www.jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt

Portugal Day Contest, (SSB/CW), 80-10 meters

June 13, 1200Z to June 14, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T) and Serial or district code

See page 86, June QST, and http://www.rep.pt/portugal_day_contest/rules.html

All Asian DX Contest (CW), 160-10M

June 20, 0000Z to June 21, 2359Z

Exchange: RST plus age; YLs send 00

See page 86, June QST and www.iarl.or.jp/English

Stew Perry Topband Challenge (CW), 160 meters

June 20, 1500Z to June 21, 1500Z

Exchange: 4-character grid square

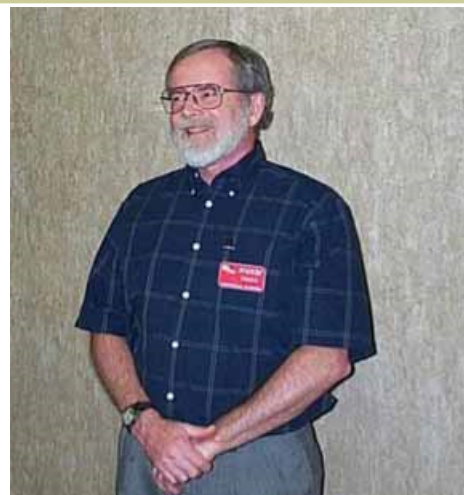
See page 86, June QST and <http://www.kkn.net/stew/>

IARU HF World Championships (SSB/CW), 160-10M

July 11, 1200Z to July 12, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus ITU zone; IARU HQ stns send HQ abbrev.

See <http://www.arri.org/iaru-hf-championship>



OTHERS:

DRCG Worldwide RTTY Contest,

0000Z Jun 13 to 1559Z Jun 14

QRP ARCI Shootout, SSB/CW,

1500Z June 13 to 2100Z June 14

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest

0100Z-0300Z, Jun 22

Ukrainian DX Classic RTTY Contest,

1200Z, Jun 20 to 1159Z, Jun 21

His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB,

1200Z, Jun 27 to 1200Z, Jun 28

Marconi Memorial HF Contest (CW),

1400Z June 28 – 1400Z, June 30

Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest ,

1200Z Jun 27 to 1200Z Jun 28

DON'T FORGET: Alabama QSO Party,

1600Z June 6 – 0400Z, June 7

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware.

Chuck, N4NM